

PCT

10/541576

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1228-103PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/CA2004/000031	International filing date (day/month/year) 06/01/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 06/01/2003
Applicant GILL, Atamjit		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☒ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

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5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

The present application provides a surgical instrument for use during a surgical procedure for the treatment of female urinary incontinence. The surgical instrument comprises a handle including a gripping mechanism (30) providing a means for the surgeon to manipulate the surgical instrument. The handle further includes a coupling means (40) enabling the interconnection of a curved needle-like element to the handle. The curved needle-like element (10) has at least two eyes therethrough, wherein one eye (80) is located in the proximity of the first end (70) of the element and a second eye (90) is located in the proximity of the opposite end (60) of the needle-like element. During the surgical procedure, surgical tape (100) is passed through one of the eyes and drawn through the body in a manner such that the surgical tape forms a suburethral sling, wherein the two ends of the surgical tape emerge from the abdominal wall.

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National Application No

PC/CA2004/000031

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B17/04 A61B17/06 A61F2/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 201 09 379 U (STEIN BERND) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27)	1,2,5-8
Y	page 2, line 18 - line 30 page 3, line 15 - line 21 page 5, line 20 - line 32 page 6, line 29 -page 8, line 5 page 10, line 29 -page 11, line 2 figures	3,4,9-11
Y	WO 02/28312 A (SOFRADIM PRODUCTION ;THERIN MICHEL (FR)) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11)	3
A	page 1, line 15 - line 18 page 4, line 3 - line 8 page 4, line 17-24 figures 1,2	1
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 June 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

16/06/2004

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International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y A	US 2002/147382 A1 (ANDERSON KIMBERLY A ET AL) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) paragraph '0171! - paragraph '0173! paragraph '0140! figures 2-4 ----	4,11 1
Y A	US 2001/027321 A1 (BEAUDET STEPHEN P ET AL) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) paragraph '0107! figures 22A,,22B ----	9,10 1
A	WO 02/39890 A (ETHICON INC) 23 May 2002 (2002-05-23) page 4, line 1 -page 6, line 23 figures 1-11 ----	1
A	US 2002/188169 A1 (LANDGREBE SUSANNE ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) paragraph '0012! paragraph '0032! - paragraph '0055! -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

CA2004/000031

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 12
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

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Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.